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SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES YEE'S BILL TO END ASSAULT ON LOCAL TAX REVENUE

*AB 451 GUARANTEES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RECEIVE FAIR
SHARE OF JET FUEL SALES TAX DOLLARS*

Despite heavy lobbying by the airline industry and the city of Oakland against Assembly Bill (AB) 451, the State Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation approved the legislation, which could return millions of dollars in jet fuel sales tax revenue to airport host communities across the state.

The bill by Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee would close a loophole in the law that is currently being exploited by United Airlines and the city of Oakland, siphoning millions of dollars in jet fuel sales tax revenue from airport communities including San Francisco and San Mateo County (SFO), Ontario and San Bernardino County (ONT), Los Angeles (LAX), Sacramento (SMF), San Diego (SAN), and San Jose (SJC), all into Oakland.

AB 451's approval came only after Speaker pro Tem Yee had to accept amendments from the Committee's Chair Mike Machado (D-Linden) to delay the bill's implementation for two years.

"This has not been an easy fight, taking on the billion dollar interests of the airline industry and powerful political influence of Oakland," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "Airport communities deserve this money now, but part of the political process and building consensus is compromise. With the passage of AB 451, San Mateo County, San Francisco, and others will finally receive their fair share in 2008."

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PAULA ABDUL TESTIFIES AT SENATE COMMITTEE HEARING IN SUPPORT OF YEE'S BILL TO PROTECT NAIL SALON CONSUMERS *RECENT INFECTION OUTBREAKS BRING RISE TO LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING SAFETY STANDARDS*

From California to New York, there has been a recent rise in the number of people complaining of leg lesions and infections after visiting nail salons. California has been especially hit by the outbreak, with hundreds of women reporting cases of a rare bacterial infection linked to pedicures and manicures.

The most famous such case struck entertainer and American Idol judge Paula Abdul last year. She testified about her devastating infection at a hearing in front of the California State Legislature.

"This horrific and debilitating condition was left under my thumb nail as a direct result of the salon using non-sanitized instruments," said Abdul. "This type of infection has caused not only me, but thousands of women the expense of medical attention, loss of wages, loss of sleep, traumatic medical procedures, fear of returning to nails salons, and in my case and many others, emergency surgeries."

Her testimony was in support of Assembly Bill 1263 by Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee, legislation that will establish minimum safety standards for pedicure and manicure equipment and ensure that such businesses have procedures for the proper, safe, and sanitary operation of spa equipment. AB 1263, which was expected to be approved by the State Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development, calls for the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology to conspicuously display a notice warning consumers if a particular business has

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The debate stems back to 1998 when the State Legislature passed a bill designed to ensure that communities hosting airports receive the benefit of the sales tax on jet fuel dispensed by airlines, provided that the given airline has more than one place of business in the state. This policy was developed to ensure that counties that bear the burden of jet fuel pollution, traffic, and noise would also reap the benefits of sales tax revenue.

However, United Airlines formed an Oakland-based subsidiary to establish a single-point-of-sale, thus depriving \$3 million to San Mateo and San Francisco Counties (SFO), \$1.5 million to Los Angeles (LAX), and significant revenue to Ontario and San Bernardino County (ONT), among other airport communities. In exchange for doing business only in Oakland, the city gave United Airlines a 65 percent kickback of the sales tax revenue generated throughout the state.

“In order to continue providing critical services for children and families, our local governments need these dollars now,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “In my district, we are losing enough revenue to pay for 100 police officers to patrol our streets, two health clinics for disadvantage neighborhoods, or 210 permanently affordable housing units for low income seniors.”

“Both San Francisco and San Mateo Counties also must mitigate issues of noise, pollution, and significant traffic from SFO airport, and thus deserve the jet fuel sales tax revenue,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “Although Oakland deserves the revenue generated out of their airport, they don’t deserve the dollars generated in our backyard and throughout California.”

AB 451 now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee before a vote by the entire Senate. Last year, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-Los Angeles) vetoed similar legislation calling for further study. The Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee did precisely that by holding a hearing in southern California to examine the issue.

“This year, I am hopeful that the Governor will sign AB 451 and return these needed dollars to our communities,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “If this bill is not signed into law, local governments may face an even greater assault on their budgets when other airlines establish similar deals.”

DEMOCRATS PLAN WOULD BRING \$27 MILLION IN NEW FUNDS FOR SAN FRANCISCO, SAN MATEO SCHOOLS

SPEAKER PRO TEM YEE URGES PASSAGE OF ASSEMBLY BILL 6

Public schools in San Francisco and San Mateo counties will gain nearly \$27 million in new funds if a bill backed by Assembly Democrats is passed by the Legislature, according to Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee.

Assembly Republicans voted unanimously against Assembly Bill (AB) 6 on June 15, 2005. The bill would have restored the 10 and 11 percent tax brackets on high income earners that existed during the administrations of former governors Ronald Reagan and Pete Wilson. Needing a two-thirds super-majority for passage, AB 6 failed on a 46-32 party line vote.

“It is disappointing that the other side of the aisle is unwilling to fully fund our public schools,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “AB 6 is a commonsense approach to provide our children with the quality textbooks, teachers, and support services they deserve. It is no different than what previous generations of Californians paid to educate our youth and is undeniably what our young people deserve now.”

AB 6, if approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, would provide an additional \$2.2 billion in funding for California’s K-14 education system by increasing the income tax rates on California’s wealthiest taxpayers. Ongoing funding provided by AB 6 would total \$1.3 billion to school districts and community colleges and another \$900 million in one-time funding.

“I urge Assembly Republicans to join us in support of our teachers, our students, and our schools,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “We can not turn our backs on our kids and their future.”

Assembly Democrats plan to bring the bill up for another vote later this session.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING AVAILABLE TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNDER AB 6

San Francisco Unified	\$12,198,996
Bayshore Elementary	\$77,527
Brisbane Elementary	\$134,303
Jefferson Elementary	\$1,641,109
Jefferson Union High	\$1,063,487
Belmont-Redwood Shores Elem.	\$486,917
Burlingame Elementary	\$365,337
Cabrillo Unified	\$755,852
Hillsborough City Elementary	\$218,496
La Honda-Pescadero Unified	\$91,659
Millbrae Elementary	\$363,227
Laguna Salada Union Elementary	\$558,276

San Bruno Park Elementary	\$583,503
San Mateo Union High	\$1,159,098
San Mateo-Foster City Elem.	\$1,662,613
Sequoia Union High	\$1,070,309
South San Francisco Unified	\$1,774,897
Las Lomitas Elementary	\$127,119
Menlo Park City Elementary	\$253,778
Portola Valley Elementary	\$168,545
Ravenswood City Elementary	\$729,782
Redwood City Elementary	\$1,163,557
San Carlos Elementary	\$172,374
Woodside Elementary	\$55,012



CALIFORNIA'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING NEARS PASSAGE IN STATE LEGISLATURE

SPEAKER PRO TEM YEE'S RESOLUTION OFFICIALLY DECLARES CALIFORNIA'S POSITION TO PROTECT COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

The State Legislature will soon officially declare California's opposition to recent Congressional efforts to weaken the long-standing federal offshore oil drilling moratorium. Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 14 authored by Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee, passed the State Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water and will soon be considered by the entire Senate. Specifically, the Resolution calls for a continuation of the federal offshore oil drilling moratorium and affirms California's opposition to any federal energy proposals that may damage coastal environments.

"This may be the most important resolution the State Legislature votes on this year," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "California's 1,100 mile coastline, our wildlife, and our economy are all at great risk if Congress ends the longstanding offshore oil drilling moratorium."

"The protection of California's coastline is vital to our wildlife as well as our economy, especially commercial fishing and tourism, which annually contributes over \$50 billion to the state's economy," said Speaker pro Tem Yee.

AJR 14 has the support of the California Coastal Protection Network, California Defenders of Wildlife, California League of Conservation Voters, Committee for Green Foothills, City of Malibu, County of San Mateo, Environment California, Environmental Defense Center, Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Ocean Conservancy, Sequoia Audubon Society, and Sierra Club, among others.



[CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE ON AJR 14](#)

received a violation.

"AB 1263 will significantly cut down on the number of infections, but more importantly this bill should give consumers a reasonable sense of protection," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "It is imperative that we protect the health and safety of all nail salon consumers."

In 1999 and 2000, there was an outbreak of infection from a salon in Watsonville, California, that caused mycobacterial infections in over 100 women. The outbreak was due mainly to the lack of cleaning the pedicure equipment properly. In November 2004, a growing number of people in San Jose began complaining about leg lesions and infections on their legs. The current assessment is that 27 salons are involved with over 120 people infected.

There are many Environment Protection Agency registered disinfectant products available to the beauty industry containing the proper enzymatic and surfactant cleaners. AB 1263 will require the use of such disinfectants as well as set up a notification requirement to customers that proper cleaning and disinfection procedures have been followed.

"Clearly this is a public safety issue that needs to be addressed," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "To prevent another outbreak, I urge the State Senate and the Governor to quickly pass and sign this bill into law."

There are 290,000 manicurists and cosmetologists licensed through the state Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. AB 1263 now must be approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee before a full vote of the Senate.

[CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE ON AB 1263](#)

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San Mateo County Times

June 21, 2005

Senate to vote on gay rights bill

Proposed legislation would protect gay candidates

By Laura Ernste, STAFF WRITER

Marina Gatto, 17, has tirelessly fought for gay rights issues even though she herself is straight.

This time the San Carlos teenager is gunning for a gay rights bill that could directly affect her.

Sponsored by Assemblyman Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, the bill aims to protect candidates from gay-bashing opponents. It would allow candidates to pledge to run a campaign free from negative stereotypes about gays and lesbians.

Gatto, who has been raised by a lesbian couple, aspires to run for office some day. When that day comes, she doesn't want political opponents to attack her for having two moms.

"I hope I will be judged on my integrity and my ability as a politician," she said.

A Code of Fair Campaign Practices already exists, covering negative comments based on a candidate's race, religion, national origin, physical health and age. Yee's bill (AB 866) would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the list.

The measure is up for a vote in the state Senate as soon as Thursday, having already cleared the Assembly and a key Senate committee. It's expected to pass just in time for the weekend's gay pride parade and festivities in San Francisco.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will have the final say on the legislation, but he is not tipping his hand. The Republican has shown some moderation on gay-rights issues, last year signing legislation requiring insurance companies to provide coverage to registered domestic partners.

Opponents say the legislation would infringe on a candidate's First Amendment rights.

Candidates might be reluctant to sign the pledge for fear that a moral or religious objection to the gay lifestyle would be construed as breaking the pledge, said Benjamin Lopez, California lobbyist for the Traditional Values Coalition.



"This bill is designed to put candidates in a Catch-22 situation," he said. Yee said nothing could be further from the truth.

"You can talk about gay marriage, just don't appeal to negative stereotypes and the ugliness of people's prejudices," he said.

A similar measure was defeated in 1996, said Yee spokesman Adam Keigwin.

In Yee's district, which also includes northern San Mateo County, gay bashing hasn't been used as a political tactic most likely because it wouldn't fly with the liberal-leaning voters.



San Mateo County Supervisors President Richard Gordon, who is openly gay, said his political opponents have never tried to make an issue of his sexual orientation. But he has spoken with other gay politicians around the country who have been subjected to name-calling. He saw one campaign brochure that attacked a gay candidate for not supporting family values, "because he has no family," Gordon said.

"This legislation guarantees an appropriate level of fairness," he said.

The supervisors are expected to formally lend their support to the bill at today's meeting.

The generally tolerant Bay Area is not immune to gay-bashing political tactics. San Jose Councilman Ken Yeager faced an anti-gay whisper campaign when he was running for office, Keigwin said.

Gay rights groups are backing the legislation, although their big focus lately has been trying to resurrect a same-sex marriage bill that was defeated in the Assembly earlier this month.

Gatto became a familiar face in the marble halls of Sacramento, where she tirelessly lobbied for the gay marriage bill. She is also president of her class at Mercy High School in Burlingame.

For more information, visit leginfo.ca.gov.

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[CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE ON AB 866](#)